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columns of the GAZETTE, giving dates and peculiarities, and so great good would grow out of this apparent evil.

One mistake of the authors of our Catalogue is to deny many of our clearest, admitted species. Thus they reject our beautiful *Tradescantia rosea*, *Rosa lucida*, *Panicum amarum* and *Carex varia*, holding that the latter is "merely an upland form of *Carex Pennsylvanica*,"—quite unfortunately, as both species *grow together* on upland or lowland indifferently! The season is not half over, but by a very fruitful visit of three weeks to Lyons, Clinton and Cedar Rapids, I have a score of rare and valuable plants to add to said Catalogue, which will be sent for verification, with the Report, to the editor of the GAZETTE, so as to preclude all doubt. Five of these occur in Ames, viz: *Euphorbia polygonifolia*, L., July 22, College and cemetery; *Euphorbia herniarioides ?* Nutt., August 9, cemetery (not quite ripe); *Iva ciliata*, Willd., from Ames to Nevada, August 14; *Potamogeton lucens*, L. var. ?*fluitans*, Gray, Moses' farm, two miles east of Ames, deep slough now nearly dry, growing in mud, submersed leave gone, July 31; with *Artemisia Canadensis*, Michx., Ames, 1876, abounds from College farm to Tama City, on gravelly banks, roadsides. It occurs no further west. To which may be added a beautiful specimen of *Pentstemon Cobarii*, sent at my request from Crescent City, Iowa, by H. H. Terry, who deserves great credit for its introduction from Nebraska, with other rare plants.—R. BURGESS, *Ames, Iowa.*

PURE WHITE VERBENA STRICTA.—This summer I found five pure-white specimens of *V. stricta* growing near each other. About forty rods from these were three others—perhaps seedlings of the first. Eight miles from this locality one plant was found, and twenty miles from the five first discovered three others were seen. The points of interest in regard to them were their wide distribution considering their rarity, their being surrounded by numerous specimens of the usual color, no pale intermediate forms being near, and in three cases out of the four, where there was more than one plant in a place, they grew close together, not being interspersed among the blue. Five roots were examined to see if they suckered, but no such connection was found. No difference in structure was observed between the white and the blue, excepting that the flower spikes were more slender and pointed in the white than in the blue.—J. M. MILLIGAN, *Morgan county, Ill.*

IS HELIANTHUS LÆTIFLORUS A GOOD SPECIES?—I have had reason to doubt whether this sunflower is a distinct plant. According to Gray's Manual, it has *yellow* disk flowers and *acute* involucral scales, "the leaves almost as thick as in *H. rigidus*," while the latter is said to have *purple* disk flowers and *obtuse* scales. I can see no other difference between the species, in the descriptions. Now, our *H. rigidus* usually has *acute* scales, (it is so described in Chapman's Flora!) and I have found near Oquawka, this season, several plants of this species with a *yellow* disk. The leaves vary greatly in size and shape, on different plants, from broadly ovate to almost linear, always thick and very rough. The color of flowers is, I think, of small importance. Mr. Bebb has found the allied *Rudbeckia hirta*, (usually purple), with a yellow disk. Will some one who believes in *H. lætiflorus*, defend that species and send me a specimen?—H. N. P., *Box* 16, *Oquawka, Ill.*

SOME NYMPHÆAS.—Dr. H. C. Beardslee, of Painesville, O., writes as follows: "A young lady of this place brought me, last week, a specimen of *Nelumbium luteum*, Salisb., collected in Bass Lake, a small inland lake, 12 or 15 miles south of this place and on the highlands 18 or 20 miles south of the lake shore. The locality was a surprise to me. The same lady informs me that she found a *Nymphæa* with pink flowers, not fragrant. Our white pond lily is *N. tuberosa* of Paine, which is said by Gray, in the Manual, never to have *pink* flowers. Either *Nymphæa odorata* occurs in that pond, which I can scarcely believe, or the petals of *N. tuberosa* are sometimes pink, or in the third place, the two may not after all be specifically distinct. A lady from Milwaukee tells me that fragrant white pond lilies occur near that place."

MEGARRHIZA.—Since receiving the August number of the GAZETTE, I have been on the alert for *Megarrhiza*, being fully determined to find it if it grew in the county of Sonoma. For three days I looked for it upon the bushes on Fitch Mountain. The next day, however, I descended the Russian river in search of a corn field, in which I remembered the *Sicyos angulatus* to have particularly flourished in the East. About a mile and a half from Healdsburg, on the right bank of the river, we spied the looked-for corn field, and carefully stepping to the top of the high picket fence enclosing the field, we perceived that the back fence was at intervals covered by a closely matted, brown-colored vine. Hastening across the field we grasped the dried fruit of *Megarrhiza*. After a long and tedious search we obtained some fifteen seeds, corresponding to the description given by Dr. Gray. There are four seeds of an almond shape contained in a thorny obovate fruit. The fruit being very ripe, the seeds had generally fallen and had been devoured by the rats.

Desiring to satisfy ourselves that it was surely Megarrhiza, we began with our botany knife to search for the root. Having followed a vine into the ground to the depth of 18 inches, we pressed into service a "small boy," who was curiously eyeing our movements. Securing a long handled shovel we continued our downward career. At the depth of 21 inches we came to the top of the rootstock; an *hour* later we had come to bed rock and were hauling the stock to the surface. This I carried home and will give the measurements: weight, 18 lbs; length of main root, 2 feet 10½ inches; circumference at the top, 21½ inches; circumference one foot from base, 15½ inches; shape, for 20 inches nearly cylindrical, then fusiform. Depth of hole, from top to bottom, 55½ inches.—R. H. THOMSON, *Healdsburg, California.*

THE "BARRENS" OF SOUTHERN INDIANA.—Ever since the writer had the privilege of arranging Dr. A. Clapp's botanical collection, made principally in 1836–1839, and discovered many desirable plants labeled "Barrens," these barrens have been often in his mind as one of the most desirable localities in Indiana for the botanical collector. At last the trip has been made, the Barrens explored, and we lay the results before the readers of the GAZETTE. The Barrens are of considerable extent, occupying quite a large area in the corners of four counties, Clarke, Floyd, Washington and Harrison. All over this region the drainage is effected by "sink-holes," not a stream, rivulet, or a single drop of running water appearing at the surface. The country is very rolling and in the bottom of each depression are found from one to three "sink holes," sometimes full of water, at others mere filthy mires, or empty. The surface is a mass of flinty stones and concretionary boulders, "nigger-heads" as they are called. The result of this flinty soil and absence of surface moisture is plainly shown in the vegetation. Scattered all over this area are thickets of scrub oak and small shrubby undergrowth, separated from one another by natural openings where, so far as we could judge, no tree or shrub had ever grown. It was in these open places that we found our best species. A trip through the Barrens is a disappointing one, for although one can secure many valuable prizes, he is constantly grieving on account of the ravages of civilization. When Dr. Clapp collected his specimens here forty years ago, it was no doubt a perfect wilderness, but now settlers have come in, a German population has taken possession of the Barrens, and our natural openings are made to yield some of the finest wheat in the State. Instead of the gorgeous display of rare and beautiful flowers, which cover the ground profusely wherever they have been left standing room, we see the monotonous succession of fields of grain or stubble. Even the fence corners are kept scrupulously clear of "weeds," for your German farmer cares nothing for science if it chokes up his fence rows. In the fields of one farmer, however, the weeds had the start, and there we found some good species, such as *Liatris scariosa*, Willd., *Eupatorium sessilifolium*, L.,